

Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 HA-05 INRE-00 CIAE-00
NSAE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 PM-05 SP-02 PA-01
/049 W

-----062947 172215Z /70

O 172127Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1679

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN JOSE 3031

FOR INR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UR

SUBJ: HOST GOVERNMENT PUBLIC REACTION TO SOVIET TRIALS

REF: STATE 178559

1. WHILE TRIAL AND SENTENCING OF SOVIET DISSIDENTS HAS BEEN FOLLOWED CLOSELY AT HIGHEST LEVELS OF GOCR, NO PUBLIC GOCR STATEMENT HAS BEEN MADE. IN INFORMAL DISCUSSION JULY 12, FONMIN CALDERON TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT FOLLOWING A REQUEST FROM THE PRESIDENT FOR VIEWS HE HAD RECOMMENDED TO CARAZO THAT THE GOCR NOT ISSUE A PUBLIC STATEMENT. CALDERON SAID THAT EVEN THOUGH COSTA RICA RECOGNIZES THAT SOVIET TRIAL PROCEDURES ARE TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE BY ANY DEMOCRATIC STANDARD, THE FILING OF ESPIONAGE CHARGES AGAINST SHCHARANSKY AND HIS TRIAL ON THESE CHARGES -- WHICH CALDERON RECOGNIZED AS TRUMPED-UP -- COMPLICATED THE GOCR'S ABILITY TO MAKE A USEFUL STATEMENT AT THIS TIME. VQX HE SAID THAT HE WELCOMED AND SUPPORTED THE STRONG USG AND HMG STATEMENTS AND POSITIONS AND THAT THE GOCR WOULD CONTINUE TO FOLLOW MATTER AND WATCH WHAT OTHER LATIN GOVERNMENTS MIGHT FFPQD WITH A VIEW TOWARD POSSIBLE RECONSIDERATION OF NHHE UTILITY OR ADVISABILITY OF A PUBLIC STATEMENT.

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2. PRESS COVERAGE

OF TRIALS, SENTENCING, AND REACTION IN US AND OTHER COUNTRIES HAS BEEN PROMINENT AND HEAVY. MOST TELLING COMMENTARY TO DATE WAS JULY 17 EDITORIAL IN LA NACION (COUNTRY'S LEADING DAILY) WHICH DESCRIBED TRIALS AND SENTENCING AS AN EXPRESSION OF THE FULL MEASURE OF SYSTEMATIC REPRESSION WHICH USSR

EXERCISES AGAINST FREEDOM OF THOUGHT.
WEISSMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, TRIALS, DISSIDENT FACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 17 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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